City of College Station Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4 December 2003

ARE YOUR ORDERS UNDERSTOOD?

Chief Giordano issued the following directive to Assistant Chief Mies: "Tomorrow evening at approximately 2000 hours Haley's Comet will be visible in this area, an event which occurs only once every seventy-five years. I will present a brief lecture on this rare phenomenon to all those who wish to assemble on the training grounds at the Training Center. Those attending should be in the dress of the day. In case of rain, we will not be able to see anything, so assemble the men in the Training Center auditorium and I will show them films of it."

Assistant Chief Mies to Battalion Chiefs Goehl, Rapczyk, and Spain: "By order of the Chief at 2000 hours, Haley's Comet will appear above the Training Center area. If it rains, all those planning to attend will be marched to the theatre where this rare phenomenon will take place. Something which occurs only once every seventy-five years."

Battalion Chiefs Goehl, Rapczyk, and Spain to all Lieutenants: By order of the Chief at 2000 hours tomorrow evening the phenomenal Haley's comet will appear in the theatre. In case of rain in the Training Center area, the Chief will give another order, something which occurs once very seventy-five years."

Lieutenants to all Drivers: "Tomorrow at 2000 hours the Chief will appear in the theatre with Haley's Comet, something which happens every seventy-five years. If it rains, the Chief will order the Comet into the Training Center area."

Driver to Crew: "When it rains tomorrow at 2000 hours the phenomenal seventy-five-year-old Chief Giordano will drive his Comet through the Training Center area."

-(Dan Bellus, on effective communications)-(re-worded from a reprint from Phoenix Fireworks)-reprinted from Sep '80 Smoke Signals, courtesy Kansas City Missouri FD-modified 6/13/03 CSFD

The Mission of the College Station Fire Department is to provide cost efficient, high-quality fire suppression and emergency medical services while providing non-emergency services, such as fire prevention, public education, and code enforcement activities.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Interjurisdictional Emergency Management Academy (EMA)

Convenes January 7th

The fourth annual Interjurisdictional EMA kicks off training for a half a day, for 8 weeks, beginning Wednesday, January 7th. The Academy brings together personnel from all the participating jurisdictions to undertake familiarization with the 4 phases of Emergency Management - Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

Most specifically the Academy makes each individual aware of the importance of their individual role in the overall Emergency Management program, and acquaints them with the roles and responsibilities of others in an informal networking atmosphere. This technique emphasizes and plays upon the importance of knowing the personnel locally who will be there with personnel and resources should they be needed in time of disaster.

This years Academy is also the ninth Academy convened locally since it was conceived in 1996. In 2000 the Academy expanded to incorporate Brazos County, the Cities of Bryan, Wixon Valley, Kurten and Texas A & M University. More than 150 personnel have been through the EMA, receiving abbreviated versions of topics and courses taught throughout the State by the Division of Emergency Management. All quotas are equally distributed among the jurisdictions and are fully committed for this year's academy.

For more information contact Brian Hilton at 764-6210.

INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Thank you all for your cooperation during the recent meetings with the Blue Cross Insurance representatives. Here is a note received from Ms. O'Connell.

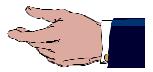
I wanted to pass along some comments to you all about the Fire Department. The lady from Blue Cross (Lana) just kept talking about how wonderful the employees from the Fire Department had been. They do lots of work with Cities, and with Fire Departments, and she said our employees were so pleasant, happy and positive. She had not come across another Fire Department like ours.

This speaks well of our Management, and our wonderful employees. You guys are great!!!

Julie O'Connell

BREAKFAST BUFFET – Meet and Greet!

A breakfast buffet will be held on Thursday, December 18 in the conference room. Employees of Municipal Court, BVSWMA, and Fire Administration will share good food, and introduce themselves to all the employees who share the new building at 300 Krenek Tap Road. Complete strangers we are no more.



CALENDAR ITEMS

DECEMBER 13 - 3-5PM STATION 2 - CSFD CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 18 - 8 AM MUNI-FIRE CONFERENCE ROOM - JOINT MUNI-FIRE-BVSWMA BREAKFAST

DECEMBER 18,19,20 - 8AM-5PM DOUG'S WRECKER SERVICE - VEHICLE EXTRICATION CLASS

DECEMBER 24 & 25 - HOLIDAY -FIRE ADMINISTRATION OFFICES CLOSED

JANUARY 1 - HOLIDAY - FIRE ADMINISTRATION OFFICES CLOSED

JANUARY 7 - 6PM - CSFD AUXILIARY MTG - FIRE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 25 1-5PM EOC - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

JANUARY 19 - HOLIDAY - FIRE ADMINISTRATION OFFICES CLOSED

JANUARY 24 - KIMBROUGH / OGG WEDDING

JANUARY 26,27 8AM-5PM - CS CONF CENTER - DEM HAZMAT INCIDENT COMMANDER CLASS

JANUARY 30 - 6-10 PM PEBBLE CREEK COUNTRY CLUB - DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION BANQUET

FEBRUARY 2 - JUNE - 6-10PM - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - CITIZEN'S FIRE ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 4 - 6PM - CSFD AUXILIARY MTG - FIRE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2003

Chad has volunteered to assist with public education activities at the schools. Chad does a good job relating with the kids and almost reminds me of myself 15-20 years ago. Chad is a good representative of the College Station Fire Department and will be one for several years to come. Good going - Chad!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, OCTOBER 2003

"Steve is very professional when dealing with the public or with others in the department. Has a quality work ethic, which shows in his everyday work. Encourages others to think out side the box when approaching what is seen to be a routine duty. He is proud of this department and the service it provides to the community. He has a good working relationship with other city departments which assists everyone." Congratulations Steve Smith.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Greg Janda - One of the most popular and frequently requested public education programs of the fire department is Fire Extinguisher Training. This training would not be possible without the use of the P-2000 Fire Extinguisher Trainer and a very dedicated fire department employee to assist in maintaining this very expensive equipment. Very often, the P-2000 Fire Extinguisher Trainer will stop working altogether. At any time, Greg has dropped everything and enthusiastically repaired the P-2000. This usually involves diagnosing the problem by taking it apart and then eliminating what the problem could be one part at a time. Congratulations Greg on a job well done.

♥ ♥ Comforting thought: The average human eats eight spiders in his or her lifetime generally while asleep. ©©©

©The first country to establish an eight-hour workday was Australia in 1856. ©

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Becky Hagen sends the Committee's thanks to everyone for helping with this years United Way Campaign. We still have the Jingle Bell Fun Run on December 7th to help with our fund-raising efforts. So far with our different fundraisers and employee pledges, we have collected \$36,425.81 for the United Way of the Brazos Valley. This is 81% of our goal.

Without everyone's support and generosity, we would not be able to help the 18 different organizations in the area that depend on donations to provide services. We are always looking for suggestions for next year's campaign and comments regarding this years campaign. Please let me, or your department rep know if you have any suggestions, or comments.

Thank you again for all your support this year.

CHANGES TO EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Effective January 1, 2004 we will be making some changes to our employee recognition program. The changes are based on comments and feedback some of you have provided during our shift meetings or during other opportunities.

We will be moving from an employee of the month to an **Employee of the Quarter.** The same submittal process will be followed that is currently in place. Employee of the Quarter will be presented with a \$50.00 check and a certificate of appreciation. The four individuals selected, as employee of the quarter will automatically be in the running for Employee of the Year.

In addition, each Battalion Chief will select an Employee of the Year for their shift and Fire Administration will select an Employee of the Year for its division.

In addition to the Employees of the Quarter, the Shift Employees and the Fire Administration Employee of the year will be eligible for Department Employee of the Year.

The Department Employee of the Year will be voted on and selected by department personnel.

The Department Employee of the Year will be awarded \$150.00 and an appreciation plaque.

Other changes are being considered and I will report back to you as the recognition program modifications are finalized.

Chief Giordano

INTERESTING FACT:

17% of all employers think their personnel get needed information through proper channels;

64% of employers say they get their information through the grapevine;

57% of employers say most information through the grapevine is negative, it is not much fun talking about the From News & World Report positive.



New Hires

Welcome - Clint McMillan, James McNeely, and Misty Varga to the CSFD family.

LET'S CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS Canaan Blake Dan McNeill Rod Cashaw Lance Norwood David Copeland **Ed Phillips** Heather Cruce Petrice Pool Eric Dotson Paul Powell Cindy Giedraitis Mike Reed Linda Giffen James Sears Jason Giles Steve Smith Thomas Goehl Tim Sullivan Paul Gunnels Andy Throne Joseph Valdez Tim Hamff John Kimbrough Misty Vargas Jim Mack Johnny Ward

CSFD Fire Prevention/Education Division has brought home the 2003 First Place Community and Service Organization Award – Adult Division for our entry "101 Dalmatians" in The Eagle's Hollywood Christmas Parade. Congratulations to everyone who worked on this community service project.

Fire Prevention Week in College Station was a *BIG BIG* success. I know all of you spent many hours in preparation for this event, and you even implemented some new programs. I have heard nothing but positive feedback. The clowns were a big hit with the kids and of course the puppets have been a big hit for several years. Again, I thank all of you very much for your dedication and commitment to the citizens and the job that you do day in and day out.

Chief Giordano



KUDOS

On Saturday, September 20, our church youths were taking a trip to Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The purpose was to attend the First Hispanic Baptist Youth Day sponsored by the University. Our youths had been working very had raising money for the event by mowing lawns. Our youths, advisors, as well as our church, were excited about the trip. For all of the youths, it was the first time they were to experience the much anticipated excitement of such an event (tour of a University, music by gospel group True Vine, message by former football player and pastor Daniel "Tiny" Dominguez, pizza party, and a college game). But the good Lord had other plans. You see, as they approached the scene of an accident in your town, the van they were driving was rear ended by a ½ ton truck and they were sent on a very traumatic and unforgettable experience. As I counseled with the advisors and youths, and after seeing the appearance of the van, I can truly say that God still makes miracles, for I see eight (5 youth and 3 adults) survivors. But my purpose is not to tell you about the accident but to praise God and to commend your Police and Fire Departments and Emergency Staff at College Station Medical Center who are the true Samaritans (Luke 10:30-35). The actions, the pats on the back, the words of reassurance, and comfort made the traumatic experience more tolerable and bearable. On behalf of the members of Primera Iglesia Bautista Galveston and the eight van occupants, who despite aches and pains appear to be doing fine, I thank you dearly for a job well done and our prayers go to all of your emergency staff that face these events on a daily basis. The units responsible on this event were 711, 721, 761, 762, 763, Bryan Engine 3, and Bryan M-3.

Miguel Tello, Interim Pastor

On behalf of the Nuclear Science Center (NSC), I would like to thank you (Billy Bradshaw) and the College Station Fire Department for your coordination and participation in the NSC's emergency training and tour that was conducted on Sep 10-13. The training/tour was a great success and it would not have been completed without the help and support of many people. We would like to extend our offer of providing more detailed tours again in the near future. Once again, thank you very much for your cooperation. Looking forward to working with you on next year's training.

Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D., Radiological Safety Officer

A Special Thanks...

The Hankins Family would like to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to all the wonderful people who helped after the terrible fire at the Sausalito Apartments. Words cannot express how much we appreciate everyone who came to offer their time, service, and consoling. There were so many who helped to recover and start over, and we would like to recognize some of those: Sausalito Apt. Manager, Catherine Haynes, residents of Sausalito and other surrounding apartments. The Red Cross, Wal-Mart, H.E.B., Texas A&M University, Blinn College, Any Springer's Chevron, Garpez Restaurant, Outback Steakhouse owner Jimmy Loup, the Cardenas Family, a special Friend, Ms. Melissa Howard and lastly, City of College Station Fire Prevention Lieutenant, Raymond Olsen, thank you for your compassion. God Bless all of you.

Rusty, Lisa and Zachary Hankins

WE HAVE TWO CHOICES

Michael is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, He would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a natural mutilator. If an employee was having a bad day, Michael was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Michael and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Michael replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.

"Yes, it is," Michael said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. Your bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Michael said. Soon thereafter, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Michael was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Michael was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

I saw Michael about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied. "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon to be born daughter, " Michael replied. "Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Michael continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read "he's a dead man. I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Michael. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. "Yes, I replied."

The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, "Gravity."

Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

Michael lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude.

I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

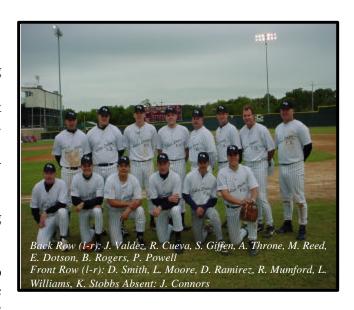
"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

After all, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

Reprint - author unknown

COLLEGE STATION FIRE DEPARTMENT BASEBALL TEAM

An employee baseball team is playing in fund-raising events. The team looks great! A tournament was held on October 26 at Consolidated High School benefiting Clint Walker. Clint is a young boy in Bryan fighting cancer. Bryan FD faced off against CSFD – we won! – and Bryan PD played CSPD - Bryan PD prevailed! November 22 -Bryan PD played courageously against the mean machine of CSFD – we did it, the score 3 to 2!! Great team spirit. Reminder - the team will also be playing in a big tournament with CSPD, BFD, and BPD on March 27th at Bryan High School. We play against the CSPD at 11 a.m. and then BFD vs. BPD at 2 p.m., with a championship game at 5:30 p.m.. Games and activities for the public will be available all day. This event will benefit Scottie's House in Bryan. Get out there and support your team with a few cheers while helping our local charities in their worthwhile endeavors.





KUDOS

Billy – thank you for your hard work with the Fall Classic. The event was an incredible success and the credit belongs to you and the committee. Your commitment and support of the organization was outstanding – we will miss working with you.

Sincerely – Sharrie

The Fall Classic is the Special Olympic State Games. This is the third and last year that the Fall Classic will be held here. The Classic was held October 16-18, 2003. Billy was the Medical Coordinator. Crews from A shift assisted with the Athlete Village that was held at A&M Consolidated Middle School on October 18, 2003. The old Fire Station on Texas Ave. was used as the equipment storage site.



"Dear Lt. Rodgers: Please pardon the delay in writing this note. On Nov. 5th I had my first experience with 911. I would like to advise you that the response was unbelievable. Two young men Chad Phillips and Andrew Byorth responded post-haste. The two were very professional, efficient and kind. We live in a two-story house and this presented no problem for them. At the hospital they asked about her condition before they left. Thought you ought to know."

Bud Denton



ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM – Bart Humphreys

For the third consecutive year, the College Station Fire Department has been awarded a grant submitted under the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate's (EP&R/FEMA of DHS) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. CSFD requested \$73,000 from FEMA with local matching funds of \$31,500, for a total project cost of \$105,000.

This grant will be used for three interrelated projects that will enhance communications, improve communications interoperability with multiple agencies, and enhance personnel tracking and accountability at emergency scenes.

Project One will provide radio headset intercom systems for four first-line apparatus.

Through our regular budget process we have added these systems to five front-line units over the last two years. Unfortunately, funding to continue this project is no longer available because of competing priorities within the fire department and other city departments. This grant will complete a retrofit of all remaining front-line apparatus. These systems are now specified as department standard equipment for any new apparatus purchase.

The cost per apparatus is \$7,000: \$5,500 for equipment and \$1,500 for installation. Total funding for the four (4) systems required to complete this project is \$28,000.

Project Two will provide for communication interoperability between our department, all other responding agencies within our county, and any other mutual aid and/or specially requested agencies.

To minimize duplication of services and maximize available resources, the Texas Division of Emergency Management has initiated a regional response program, more heavily involving the local Councils of Governments in emergency planning and response. As the cities of College Station and Bryan represent almost 50% of the total population (and a substantially larger percentage of the available resources) of all seven counties in our COG, it is painfully obvious that the surrounding counties will call upon us for assistance in any major emergency. Interoperable communications will be a major issue.

The Incident Commanders' Radio Interface (ICRI), developed by Communications-Applied Technology, is an excellent example of a simple solution to many of our communication interoperability problems. The ICRI is a highly portable, easy to set-up "switch" that joins different department/agency radios and telephones in a common voice "net", across bands and operating platforms. This unit allows interconnection of multiple public safety and/or military radios operating on 800/400/150MHz, low band VHF, AM/FM, digital or analog, trunked or talk-around, and telephone, either landline or cellular. Each module has five radio I/O (in/out) ports and one telephone port. ICRI modules can be interconnected, allowing more agencies to join the communications network.

Requested funding for this project is \$30,000 to provide two modules, complete with necessary interface connections and field programmable portable radios, that will operate as **standalone systems** integrating five diverse radio systems. If circumstances so warrant, these modules can be interconnected to provide a system capable of integrating up to eight separate radio systems.

Project Three is the purchase of a Personnel Accountability System to bring our department into full compliance with **NFPA 1561**, as mandated by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, and further ensure

personnel safety and accountability on the fire ground. Besides tracking departmental personnel as they respond to routine runs, the system is designed to rapidly screen, check-in, and track all responders – including mutual aid, site visitors, civilians and their equipment – at any large-scale or mass casualty incident. The system specifically meets the challenge of the **First Responder Initiative** by coordinating mutual aid responses to WMD or other large-scale disasters while ensuring site security. There are four primary components to the system.

ID Tags/Cards: The system provides software and supplies for creating identification (ID) tags/cards for departmental personnel as well as mutual aid resources, if desired. Temporary tags can also be created in the field using a field computer and printer that are part of the system. The tags have common human-readable text (name, rank, department name and logo, ID number, qualifications and certifications) as well as a PDF417 high-capacity bar code encoded with the same information. The backside of the tag will have another PDF417 bar code containing emergency medical and contact information. The bar codes represent a **P**ortable **D**ata **F**ile so personnel and equipment will bring their data to our sites in a common, machine-readable format.

Data Terminals: The system includes scanner-enabled Personal Data Assistants (PDAs), with radio frequency communications, for use by incident managers and safety officers. As personnel and equipment arrive at the scene, their ID tags are scanned to capture WHO is at the site, WHAT qualifications or training they have, WHERE they have been assigned, and WHEN they got there. The PDA has a timer to remind the user to conduct a PAR (personnel accountability report) that provides a snapshot of how many personnel are at the site and where they are located/assigned. A single data terminal can monitor a small or routine incident or they can be networked for larger incidents. The PDAs will be cross-utilized for station routines including the tracking of trainees, performing equipment and truck checks, and standard PDA functions such as keeping a copy of our departmental roster and emergency contact information. The data terminals can read any bar code – PDF417 or standard.

Command Module: The system includes a command module for our department's command vehicle/post. The command module consists of a laptop PC with special command software and a WLAN (wireless local area network) consisting of an access point receiver and antennas required to communicate with the PDAs. The command module allows an incident manager to monitor multiple PDAs at a larger incident. As data terminals communicate with the access point, icons appear on the lap top command screen representing the PDA unit and its PAR status. The operator simply clicks on the icon to view the PAR details for that PDA or assignment. The command module provides more detailed reports including a Command Log, an Incident Check List and the ability to print temporary ID tags (using a portable label printer) on-scene for visitors to the site or other responders who have not been previously bar coded.

Host System: The system provides software that resides on a host PC at the station. At the end of a shift, incident, or major event, the data in the PDAs and/or command module is downloaded to the host software for detailed run reports, incident critiques and archiving. The host software also allows the department to maintain records on all personnel and equipment and to print the ID tags mentioned above.

Total funding for this project is \$47,000.

These three projects directly relate to objectives set forth in the Bush Administration *First Responder Initiative:* developing interoperable communications systems; purchasing equipment; developing mutual aid compacts, improving incident command and control systems. These projects also support the U.S. Fire Administration's goal of reducing firefighter fatalities and injuries by twenty-five percent over the next five years.

GRANTS IN A NUT SHELL - Federal Grants Received - Bart Humphreys

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

FY '01	Federal Share Local Match	\$37,000.00 \$10,000.00	
	Project Total	\$10,000.00	\$47,000.00
FY '02	Federal Share	\$90,132.00	
	Local Match	\$38,628.00	
	Project Total		\$128,760.00
FY '03	Federal Share	\$73,500.00	
	Local Match	\$31,500.00	
	Project Total		\$105,000.00
	Total Federal Share	\$200,632.00	
	Total Local Match	\$80,128.00	4400 = 40 00
	Project Totals		\$280,760.00

Domestic Preparedness Assessment Grant Program

FY '02 Assessment	\$273,163.61
FY '03 Assessment	\$270,374.00

Total Assessments \$543,537.61

Total of All Federal Grant Projects \$824,297.61

FIRE PREVENTION/EDUCATION EVENT UPDATES – SPRING 2004

January 12, 2004	5:30 p.m.	Citizens Fire Academy Alumni/CART Meeting
January 15, 2004	12:00 p.m.	Newcomers Club
January 20, 2004	1:30 p.m.	C.E.R.T. – Bush Library
January 31, 2004	11:00 a.m.	Post Oak Mall – Kids Fair
February 6, 2004	2:00 p.m.	Texas Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
February 16, 2004	5:30 p.m.	Citizens Fire Academy Alumni/CART Meeting
February 16, 2004	6:30 p.m.	Citizens Fire Academy 2004, First Class
March 2004	*	Fire Safety Trailer at the Schools Month
March 22, 2004	5:30 p.m.	Citizens University – Fire Department Evening
March 27, 2004	11:00 a.m	Chutes and Ladders – Bryan High School
April 3, 2004	9:00 a.m.	Senior Police and Fire Academy, First Class, Teen Center
April 19, 2004	5:30 p.m.	Citizens Fire Academy Alumni/Cart Meeting
May 8, 2004	7:00 a.m.	CFA Live Burn, Brayton Fire Training Center
June 14, 2004	6:00 p.m.	CFA Graduation, City Council Chambers
June 2004	•	Career Connections for Junior and High School Students
		Risk Watch Injury Prevention Camp Shows



AUXILIARY DEVELOPMENT

FAMILIY MEMBERS of CSFD firefighters and staff were invited recently by Chief Giordano to participate in an informal meeting to discuss the possibility of organizing into an auxiliary group for the department. The proposed idea is for family members of CSFD firefighters and staff to be an internal support group, to not only help organize events, but also to be there in time of celebration, promotions, and during times of crisis, whether it be during personal loss or injury during the performance of their duty.

Watch for Your Invitation Soon

Just a few ladies joined us for the first meeting where we invited the Precinct Four Volunteer's Auxiliary to speak and describe the activities in which they participate at the regional and state level. This information showed our families the potential ahead, if they chose to formally organize. Many telephone calls went out to all the firefighters and staff to let them know that another meeting was going to take place – this time about 20 individuals participated in a very exciting meeting. This group made a commitment to go forward with plans for a departmental children's Christmas Party on December 13, starting at 3 pm at Station Two. This group also met on December 1 to complete the plans for the party, and discuss future plans for further development of the group. The next meeting will be January 7, 2004 at the Fire Administration Conference Room, 300 Krenek Tap, anyone interested in joining please come to this meeting. Linda Giffen is serving as the department liaison – any questions please call her at 764-3705.

DECEMBER 5, 2003

A-Shift personnel - loaded down with toys collected from the stations delivered them to the MASH tent today. Kim Varner spearheaded this project for the families of our firefighters in conjunction with the annual Radio *MASH* (*Make a Smile Happen*) event at the Post Oak Mall. Through the local media and city network neighborhoods and employees were encouraged to drop off their new or gently used toys to their local fire stations. This was a huge success. Thank you Kim for getting and wrapping the boxes used to collect these toys.





D.E.A.D.

DRINKING AND DRIVING ENDS ALL DREAMS

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed people can change the world."

A team of City of College Station employees came together in 2003 with the goal to provide a life changing experience for 2,300 College Station High School students. Scott Simpson, CSPD; Mike Mullen, Volunteer Services; Mike Ruesink; Tom Thraen, Steve Hisaw, Steve Smith, Cindy Giedraitis Jon Mies, and Eric Hurt all of the College Station Fire Department were the Operations Team for D.E.A.D.

D.E.A.D. - Drinking and Driving Ends All Dreams"; included a <u>staged collision</u> and <u>school assembly</u>. The event took place at A&M Consolidated High School on November 12 and 13, 2003. "D.E.A.D." is a D.W.I. Prevention Program that can help save the lives of young people and others. Teen vehicle deaths in Texas are among the highest in the country. Every 18-30 Minutes, a person dies in an alcohol related car crash.

This two-day program involved several activities that dramatizes the problems associated with drinking and driving. On <u>Wednesday, November 12, 2003, at 8:55 a.m.</u>, five A&M Consolidated High School students were in a staged D.W.I. traffic collision where they were made up with "moulage" to appear seriously injured and/or dead. In addition, once "every 18 minutes," students representing those who die every eighteen minutes in car crashes were removed from their classrooms by the Grim Reaper to become members of the "Living Dead." That night, participants attended an overnight retreat to debrief and engage in group discussions.

The assembly scheduled on <u>Thursday</u>, <u>November 13, 2003</u>, at 9:00 a.m., included motivating speeches by D.W.I. victims. The assembly was culminated with a presentation by Kyle Johnson who was the drunk driver in the car collision that killed an A&M Consolidated High School graduate named Holly Wynn. Kyle has been convicted of drunk driving and was being transported to Huntsville State prison directly after his assembly presentation.





And to all a very Happy New Year!

Chief Giordano